

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A complex for use as a therapeutic pharmaceutical, said complex comprising:
 a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine donor group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.
- 10 2. The complex according to claim 1, wherein said gold atom is a gold(I) compound.
3. The complex according to claim 1 wherein said gold-ligand complex further includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 15 4. The complex according to claim 1, wherein said gold-ligand complex further includes therapeutic agent.
5. A method of treating cancer comprising the steps of:
20 administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.
6. A method of preventing the metastasis of cancer comprising the
25 steps of:
 administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.

7. A method of arresting cell growth comprising the steps of:
administering an effective amount of a complex comprising a ligand
comprising at least one hydroxyalkyl phosphine group bound to a non-
5 radioactive gold atom to form a stable gold-ligand complex.